

District Curriculum Director

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2010

9:00 Welcome

The following are in attendance today:

Jim Rickley, Michelle Caramella, Ben Zunino, Mark Martinson, Pam Teel, Joe DeBraga, Kathy Bomba-Edgerton, Susan Moore, Kerry Pope, Pete Chapin, Jean Spell, Deirdre Pederson, Sue Keema, Teri White, Kathy St. Clair, Sue Denning, Sandi Foster, Cindy Plummer, Lisa Bliss, Patty Fleming, Hugh Rossolo, Valerie Byrnes, Jerre Lamb, Teresa Nolan, Cathy Smales, Sherry McLean, Darrin Hardman, Pat Painter, Lisa Ford, Chris Smith, David Thiel, Sue Daellenbach, Mary Pike, Heidi Arbuckle, Wendi Hawk, Deena Holloway, Dave Brancamp, Tracy Gruber, Cindy Sharp, Richard Vineyard, Tom McDiarmid, Stephanie Hartman, Carol Crothers

9:05 NING & Webpage for DCD Team

Stephanie shared information on the NING and the website. On the NING Stephanie asked for input into the curriculum team NING site should have a more open access for the team? Being no direct opinion offered Stephanie suggested that if you need to add an additional member to be part of the NING, send the contact information to Stephanie.

Stephanie also shared the new District Curriculum Directors webpage:

http://nde.doe.nv.gov/APAC_DistrictCurriculumDirectors.html. She asked for any comments and being none, she shared how important this site will be for sharing information and updates with all the handouts with your colleagues. This webpage will have all agendas, meeting materials, etc. posted.

Announcements/Updates:

Growth Model

Carol Crothers then shared information on the Growth model and how this will be impacted by Race to the Top grant and application and how it evolves with teacher evaluations especially. If anyone is interested in participating in assisting with this part of the application please e-mail Stephanie with your name and we will follow-up with conference calls and video meetings to collaborate on this part of the application.

Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)

Carol also gave an update on the NAA and the Standards Setting in April as well as impact on schools and the appeal process and the flexibility with any change we bring to our assessment program. Contact Stephanie about participating in all the Standards Setting in May as well.

Standards Revision

Standards and the Assessment cycle were discussed by Carol with the team. She shared the revised document with the proposed timeline. Carol went through the document and pointed out the key points. We will no longer pull together item writing teams together to craft new assessment items

in the summer. The new design will be through a contract between WestEd (Test Developer Company) and at least 50% of teachers in Nevada. We will continue with the Content Review and the Bias reviews with Nevada stakeholders. Once Carol finished the review, she asked for clarifications and comments. Ben Zunino requested that RPD be involved with the rollout of information and resources to the districts due to the limited number of staff at the department.

9:45 Standards Adoption/Revision & Race to the Top Update

Carol Crothers shared information on the development of the Common Core State Standards and the process involved about the College /Workplace Readiness Standards.

- James Rickley asked about the impact on the timeline with the adoption of the Common Core.
- Carol addressed the speed of this process due to all the legal adoption processes here in Nevada.
- Stephanie will contact the team once we know the public release date on this document.
- Our current plan is:
 - Once they are released for public comments NDE will run with the document and align between Nevada and the CCSS. We will do an initial analysis and look for gaps. We will then contract with a national expert, Jan Sheinker, to guide us and a small team through the process of completing the Nevada document with the gaps addressed.
 - This meeting will occur on March 30 – 31, 2010.
 - These are in addition to the dates requested for the Standards Setting in April and May.
- Sue from Clark County School District asked for a letter and application so recruitment of teachers can begin.
 - Carol informed Sue that the wheels are turning to get this done as soon as possible.
- The request for further clarification on the process and the impact of Race to the Top application has on the process both fiscally as well as the assessment picture.
 - The application is expecting an aligned / balanced assessment throughout the state. Nevada can not do this assessment process alone, we need to be part of a consortium of states. Carol described the two main consortiums at the table and Nevada is still exploring the options and details. One is based out of Florida and the other is the Western states.
 - Ben asked about the current plan and the impact of the common core standards adoption and how this plays out.
 - Carol shared how the current compliance agreement forces our hand to do the Standards Setting and Alignment Study and the penalties are too severe not to play.
 - The potential room for breathing is the implementation process of the adoption of the Common Core State Standards. The funding from the Race to the Top will direct how we make this implementation process possible. There are no guarantees of funds, but the Common Core State Standards will likely be part of the system one way or another.
 - Ben presented the concerns that the districts and the state will face with this task and the key to the training of our teachers and most importantly the impact on our students. For the state to be successful, we will need to have the RPD's on board with the training necessary for both the administrators and the teachers.

- Carol shared the idea of increased professional development that she read in the Louisiana application and a common message must be conveyed.
- Ben committed to supporting the need for training for all and having RPDP's dialed into what the state is doing.
- Professional development is the key to the success of the program. In times of tight budgets, we need to do what is needed to sustain this change. Intensive, quality professional development is a must for our students to be successful.
- Need to have a one-on-one conversation contact Carol directly.
- If you are interested in suggesting members for any of the work on Race to the Top and the Common Core State Standards send this information to Stephanie.

10:35 BREAK

10:50 Environmental Literacy/Science Update

Richard Vineyard told the team about an Environmental Literacy Conference at the end of the month. The new environmental literacy plan for Nevada will be released on next Wednesday for public comment. Fortunately, there is some funding associated with this activity to assist with the professional development and training of our teachers. Richard reminded everyone about the local science fairs and Science Olympiads. He also reminded them about the estimates for the alternate science assessment. Richard also reminded them about the requirements for this process. Currently, there is a concern that the numbers will be ten times the numbers from the past. Handouts (posted on the DCD Team Webpage: Our Places Tell Stories Conference Program & Green Print: Nevada's Environmental Literacy Plan)

10:55 Textbook Subcommittee Report

Bill Strader reported about the textbook subcommittee work via NING. The three key concerns of this committee deal with NRS 390 on state adoption; electronic format of textbooks: and supplemental materials. Bill also reported a potential additional item of concern may be AB13. Bill also invited additional members to join this virtual sub-committee since this was a suggestion from the team, yet we are lacking the input to answer the above concerns.

11:00 ELA Workshop

Bev Mudd and Joanne Jones gave an update on the 8th grade writing rubric. Joanne gave the team some background information and history on the 8th grade writing. Commented on the easy that this new document could be used throughout the school and with students in editing their own papers. Joanne shared how the new document was developed. After feedback from the review teams an instructional support document will go on the web with the new rubric to support the use in the classroom. A PowerPoint has been created to introduce the use of the rubric and details on expository writing. This will be posted on the NDE website and disseminated to Test Directors, Curriculum Directors, RPDP's, CPDP's and any potential additional members you let Joanne, Bev or Darin know via e-mail. Joanne and Bev went over some key elements of an effective writing program that can be used in the schools. Teach students to be good writers. Bev shared some writing samples and issues that came from the samples. Sample A was too small a script to be read. Ask the students to write clearly and large enough to be scored. Sample B was more editorial than writing to the prompt. Remind students to stick to the bounds of the prompt and writing directions. Sample C was a short request that the student could not write and to not pass them.

Remind the students to give their best effort. Bev then went through the writing assessment scoring process.

11:40 Social Studies Updates

National council for the Social Studies: Local Affiliates

Stephanie Hartman gave the latest update on profession development opportunities for teachers in Nevada. Membership opportunities to both the Northern and Southern Nevada Social Studies Councils were discussed along with the activities they both provide. Both are open for K – 12 teachers. The Northern Nevada Council for the Social Studies website will be available in the summer. The URL for the Southern Nevada Council for the Social Studies is: If you have questions about joining just contact Stephanie.

EAC Grant – Mock Election

Stephanie elaborated on the EAC grant that Ross Miller presented at our last meeting. Please get the word out to your teachers; we would like to have them involved. The training dates are April 24th in Reno and Las Vegas, June 10th in Las Vegas and June 14th in Reno. Teachers only need to attend one of these meetings. Please check with the regional district leaders on this process: Sue Davis in the North, Scott Guthrie in Elko and Karlye Mull in the South.

SB 317 – Financial Literacy

Stephanie discussed some further information from SB317 on Financial Literacy. She discussed the new document on Financial Literacy via the web site at http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Teachers_SocialStudies_FinLiteracy.html . She also discussed the various free curriculum materials that are available to support this document.

Middle School Integrated Standards Document

Stephanie then highlighted the Middle School Integrated Standards document. She started with a brief history on the development of this document. This new document is available on the department website (http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Standards_SocialStudies.html). It is taking all the social studies standards integrated into one document for middle school only. There is currently not an elementary document. Please contact Stephanie if interested in a subcommittee to begin this process or suggest a potential member.

View the NDE website under Social Studies for the latest on many professional development opportunities for our teachers http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Teachers_SocialStudies_ProDev.html . She posts the latest update at this site so please remind your teachers to look regularly.

There is a special section on the web site just for Nevada Social Studies Teachers at http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Teachers_SocialStudies.html .

12:15 Implementing CTE Programs of Study in High Schools

Mike Raponi shared information on the career and technical education programs. Through the Carl D Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 Mike and his team have updated many programs. Students can earn up to 21 credits for college now.

Mike shared the highlights from their five year plan and the expectations for students.

Mike then review some of the state requirements for CTE programs. He highlighted two statewide workshops: February 4th in Reno and March 24th in Las Vegas. Site-based teams of administrator

over CTE curriculum, lead counselor, and CTE department chair made up the key players for the workshops. Mike shared a plan developed off a template shared with others at the workshops. Can contact Mike for Technical Assistance for any district program on their “Program of Study” if the workshops did not fit the schedule for the districts. Mike shared how some students who are open explorers often assist in the developing a potential opportunity to set up a cohesive course of study for that student to be successful in their “program of study”.

12:30 Additional District Items/Questions

Stephanie highlighted that the next meeting will be May 18th. She also reminded everyone that all meeting materials are posted at: http://nde.doe.nv.gov/APAC_DistrictCurriculumDirectors.html Carol concluded by letting team members know that Race to the Top materials will be posted on the Curriculum Directors